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The lead article in the January-March 1967  
China Quarterly is by [REDACTED] identified  
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### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

## *Mao's "Cultural Revolution": Origin and Development*

CPYRGHT [REDACTED]

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Recognising that men always make mistakes, what should be done with those comrades who go astray? Toward these, one should first carry out struggle and thoroughly wash away mistaken thoughts. Secondly, it is still necessary to help them. Proceeding from good intentions, help them correct their errors, enable them to have a way out.

—Mao Tse-tung, Speech at Moscow Communist  
Party Conference, November 1957.<sup>1</sup>

CPYRGHT

MAO TSE-TUNG utilised the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution to lecture delegates attending the Moscow Communist Party Conference on the correct method for dealing with erring comrades. Mao appeared to be offering his formula "unity-criticism-unity" to other Bloc parties as a substitute for the violence and terror inherent in Stalin's periodic purging of the Soviet party. At the same time, Mao appeared to be giving assurances that Stalin's errors connected with the "cult of personality" could not possibly develop within the Chinese party.

Eight years later in the fall of 1965, Mao Tse-tung initiated the "great proletarian cultural revolution" featuring Stalinist techniques of violence and the public purge.<sup>2</sup> What has produced this sharp reversal of Maoist strategy in dealing with such long-time "comrades-in-arms" as Liu Shao-ch'i (Mao's heir-apparent for 20 years)? Why is it necessary to organise Red Guards to terrorise and maltreat all segments of Chinese society, including the once sacrosanct Chinese Communist Party?

These are large questions to which, lacking many of the relevant facts, one can only provide partial and tentative answers. Some must await the further unfolding of the "cultural revolution" which will undoubtedly shed more light on its purposes and objectives. Some are

<sup>1</sup> Kung-tso T'ung-hsun (*Bulletin of Activities*), No. 13 (March 20, 1961), p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> For a good discussion of this and other parallels between Mao and Stalin, see Arthur A. Cohen, "Mao: the Man and His Policies," *Problems of Communism*, September-October 1966.

## Contributors

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